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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 000603

SIPDIS

IO AND AF FOR FRONT OFFICE; NSC FOR PITTMAN

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [ZI](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED TO TIMING AND CONTENT OF  
ZIMBABWE UNSCR

Classified By: Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for Reasons 1.4 B/D.

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: South African PermRep Dumisani Kumalo met with AMB Khalilzad July 7 to request that the U.S. consider an "intermediate option" before moving forward with sanctions on Zimbabwe. Kumalo said the content and timing of the U.S. draft resolution will not meet its intended objective of encouraging political dialogue because the text only puts pressure on Zimbabwean government forces, and none on the opposition. Kumalo also said that the proposal for a UN Special Envoy was misguided, since it threatened to supersede ongoing regional efforts at political reconciliation led by South Africa. AMB Khalilzad responded that the U.S. intended to put the resolution forward for adoption this week and believed the diplomatic and financial pressure of sanctions against the Mugabe regime could help government and opposition forces move closer to resolving the crisis. END SUMMARY.

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South Africa: UNSCR Content  
and Timing Not Helpful  
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¶2. (C) South African PermRep Dumisani Kumalo met with AMB Khalilzad July 7 to communicate South Africa's concerns that the timing and content of the U.S. sponsored draft resolution on Zimbabwe would be counterproductive. Kumalo said that President Mugabe had shown some willingness to engage in substantive talks with the opposition in recent days and that a UN sanctions resolution would not encourage progress at this point. Second, Kumalo reasoned that while the Mugabe government is under pressure to negotiate following the European Union and African Union statements, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leadership had no incentive to engage so long as it enjoyed international support and international pressure was entirely focused on the government. Kumalo added that the use of chapter VII authorities to comment on the legitimacy of an election was a "step too far." Lastly, Kumalo noted that implementation of a sanctions resolution would require the buy-in of the neighboring states and that the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) did not support sanctions.

¶3. (C) AMB Khalilzad responded that the U.S. believed that the Mugabe regime's actions, unlike those of the MDC leadership, warranted a strong response from the Security Council and that additional pressure was needed to convince President Mugabe to change course. AMB Khalilzad said the U.S. shared South Africa's belief that an inclusive political settlement was the only solution to the crisis and for that reason included provisions regarding the removal of the sanctions following an agreement. On timing, AMB Khalilzad added that the U.S. believed the situation in Zimbabwe was

growing more urgent and wanted to adopt the resolution this week for that reason.

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SADC Should Have the Lead  
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¶4. (C) AMB Kumalo complained about the provisions of the resolution calling for the establishment of a UN Special Envoy for Zimbabwe. Kumalo argued that SADC and South Africa were already engaged in negotiations on the issue and that any expanded UN role should be "secondary" to ongoing regional initiatives. AMB Khalilzad responded that the proposed UN Special Envoy would complement, not replace, the ongoing regional initiatives on Zimbabwe.

Khalilzad